Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07461 261725Z
ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 ONY-00 /004 W
----------261735Z 059064 /43
P 261620Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7943

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7461

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. FOR LEVITSKY: FYI LEN WILLEMS IS DEPARTING MAY 26 AND EXPECTS TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON SUNDAY, MAY 29.

2. MAY WE HAVE FULL TEXT AS DELIVERED OF AMBASSADOR TOON'S PEECH AT TUFTS? BRIEF AP SUMMARY DATELINED MEDFORD, MASS, HAS ATTRACTED INTEREST OF SOVIET AND US-RESIDENT PRESS. NO RPT NO PICKUP IN SOVIET PRESS HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION, HOWEVER.

3. RE STATE 121329, PARA 3 (INVITATION FORMS FOR AMBASSADOR);

LEN WILLEM HAD LEFT FOR AIRPORT A COUPLE OF HOURS BEFORE YOUR CABLE REACHED MY DESK, SO THAT WE WEREN'T ABLE TO GIVE THE FORMS TO HIM FOR DELIVERY. WE'RE SENDING THEM BY SATURDAY'S CLASSIFIED POUCH (SPEEDIER DELIVERY) WITH REGISTRY NO. 3648301 TO MARK GARRISON.

4. RE MOSCOW 6647, PARA 3 - HAS ANYONE BEEN ABLE TO FIND OUT WHETHER KAHN PAPER CO. CAN PROVIDE JULY 4 ITEMS? NEED RESPONSE SOONEST IN ORDER TO MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.
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5. THE RAPID INR ANALYSIS (STATE 120733) WAS MUCH APPRECIATED. IT TRACKS WELL WITH MY OWN FEELINGS EXCEPT IN THE FOLLOWING RESPECTS (PARA 5 5-5353)):
PODGORNYY'S JOB NEED NOT BE PARTICULARLY LABOR-INTENSIVE; I AM INCLINED TO BET AGAINST BREZHNEV'S VOLUNATRY DEVESTITURE OF GENSEC DUTIES; AND FINALLY, I CONSIDER IT

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ENTIRELY TOO EARLY TO OPINE THAT BREZHNEV IS AT LAST FACING
UP TO THE NEED FOR AN ORDERLY SUCCESSION. SO FAR, NO ONE
IN THE PRE-SEPTUAGENARIAN GENERATION IS BEING CLEARLY
POSITIONED. (RUSAKOV DOESN'T REALLY COUNT IN THIS REGARD,
SINCE HE WAS A DIRECT REPLACEMENT FOR A YOUNGER KATUSHEV.)
SO FAR, IN MY VIEW, ONE CAN CERTAINLY ESTABLISH A LEAP
FORWARD IN BREZHNEV'S CONTROL OF THE POLITBURO AND SECRETARIAT;
WHEHTER AND HOW HE WILL USE THIS TO AFFECT THE SUCCESSION
REMAINS TO BE SEEN. (PASS ON TO PAUL IF YOU WISH.)MATLOCK

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